



## BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2009

### Competitor Biography

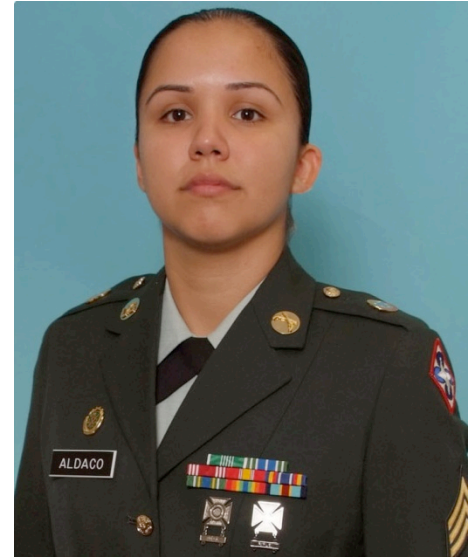


**Sgt. Lauren N. Aldaco**  
**U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command**  
*Soldier of the Year*

**Current Unit of Assignment:** 217th Military Police  
Detachment, Fort Lee, Va.

**Time in Service:** 3 years

Sgt. Lauren N. Aldaco is currently assigned as a military police investigator with the 217<sup>th</sup> Military Police Detachment in Fort Lee, Va. She has completed Military Police One Station Unit Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. Upon completion of training, she was assigned to the 557th Military Police Company at Camp Humphreys, South Korea; while assigned, she served as a MK-19 and M-249 Gunner, a driver, and a military police patrolman.



From November 2007 through January 2008, she served as a member of the Special Reaction Team; she also served as a member of the Shooter Reaction Team. In August 2008, she attended Military Police Investigator Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Aldaco's awards include the Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Korean Defense Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; and two Certificates of Achievement. Aldaco was selected to represent the 217<sup>th</sup> MP Detachment in the Fort Lee Army Garrison Soldier of the Year Competition.

Aldaco is currently enrolled at Central Texas College, with a concentration in criminal justice from East Los Angeles College, to pursue a bachelor's degree. She was born in Monterey Park, Calif.



## BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2009

### Competitor Biography



**Spc. Shiloh Becher**  
**U.S Army Reserve Command**  
*Soldier of the Year*

**Current Unit of Assignment:**  
461<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company, Fargo, N.D.

**Time in Service:** 3 years

Spc. Shiloh Becher currently serves as a 21R, Interior Electrician, with the 461<sup>st</sup> Engineer Company in Fargo, N.D. He is Combat Lifesaver and Combatives Level 1 qualified, and aims to complete Sapper and Airborne schools.

His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal (2) and an Army Achievement Medal. In 2009, he was named U.S. Army Reserve Command Soldier of the Year.

A native of Mapleton, N.D., Becher has completed 44 semester hours at Minot State University. Becher is married and has one child.





## BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2009

### Competitor Biography



**Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Aaron L. Beckman**  
**U.S. Army Europe Command**  
***NCO of the Year***

**Current Unit of Assignment:**

C Co., 7<sup>th</sup> Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy, Camp Normandy, Grafenwoehr, Germany

**Time in Service: 12 years**

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Aaron L. Beckman currently serves as the Senior Small Group Leader with C Co., 7th Army Noncommissioned Officer Academy at Camp Normandy, Germany. In 2003, he deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Beckman has completed Sapper School and is Combatives Level 3 and Combat Lifesaver certified.



His military awards and achievements include the Meritorious Service Medal; Army Commendation Medal with V device; Army Commendation Medal with six Oak Leaf Clusters; and Army Achievement Medal with 11 Oak Leaf Clusters.

Beckman is pursuing a degree at Central Texas College, and graduated from Julesburg High School in Julesburg, Colo.

He is a native of Venango, Neb., and is married with three children.



## BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2009

### Competitor Biography



**Sgt. Jason E. Boatwright**  
**National Capital Region**  
***Soldier of the Year***

**Current Unit of Assignment:** U.S. Army Garrison-Heidelberg Religious Support, Heidelberg, Germany

**Time in Service:** 2 years, 6 months

Sgt. Jason E. Boatwright serves as a Chaplain's assistant funds clerk for USAG-Heidelberg Religious Support.

His military education includes the Non-Appropriated Chaplaincy Funds Clerk Course; Combat Life Savers Course; and Tactical Driving Course.

Boatwright's military accomplishments include Army Commendation Medal (1); and Army Achievement Medal (4); Academic Honor Graduate for Advanced Individual Training class 07-008; 2009 Installation Management Command - Europe Soldier of the Year; 2009 IMCOM Soldier of the Year; 2009 National Capital Region Soldier of the Year; Certificate of Achievement (F Co., 193<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment); and Certificate of Achievement AIT (Soldier of The Cycle).

Boatwright is currently pursuing an associate's degree in general studies.

He is from Madera, Calif., and is married with two children.







## BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2009

### Competitor Biography



**Staff Sgt. Neftali H. Bonilla**  
**U.S. Army Pacific Command**  
***NCO of the Year***

**Current Unit of Assignment:**  
Headquarters & Headquarters Co., Task Force 49  
Aviation, Fort Wainwright, Alaska

**Time in Service:** 4 years

Staff Sgt. Bonilla is currently a safety NCO for Task Force-49 Brigade at his second duty station in Fort Wainwright, Alaska. In 2005, he completed a 12-month deployment to Mosul, Iraq. Bonilla is a graduate from the Cold Warrior Leadership Course, Combatives Level I, and is combat life saver qualified.



His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal (3); Army Achievement Medal (3); Joint Meritorious Unit Award; Army Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Iraq Combat Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Noncommissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; Aviation Badge; Combat Action Badge; and Driver and Mechanic Badge. In 2009, he achieved Noncommissioned Officer of the Year for U.S. Army Pacific Command.

He is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in aeronautical science from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University.

A native of Mexico, Bonilla is married and has three children.



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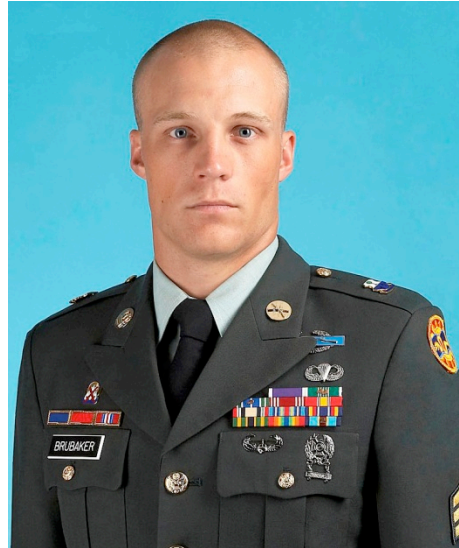
**Sgt. Ryan Brubaker**  
**U.S. Army National Guard**  
*NCO of the Year*

**Current Unit of Assignment:**

B Co., 1-163 Infantry Montana Army National Guard,  
Missoula, Mont.

**Time in Service:** 4 years

Sgt. Ryan Brubaker serves as an 11B20, Infantry Squad Leader with B Co., 1-163 Infantry Montana Army National Guard. He has served for 4 years, and was previously assigned to the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division. He deployed twice in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Brubaker is Airborne, Assault, EMT, Unit Prevention Leader, Combatives Level I, Unit Armorer and Combat Lifesaver qualified.



His awards and achievements include the Overseas Service Ribbon; Army Service Ribbon; Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Good Conduct Medal; Army Achievement Medal (2); Army Commendation Medal (3); Combat Infantry Badge; Distinguished Honor graduate of One Station Unit Training; and selection to the Commandant's List during the Warrior Leader Course.

He has completed an associate's degree from the University of Montana, and is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Forestry.

A native of Plains, Mont., Brubaker is married with two children.



## BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2009

### Competitor Biography



**Staff Sgt. Aaron Butler**  
**U.S. Army Reserve Command**  
***NCO of the Year***

**Current Unit of Assignment:**  
4225<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Hospital, Fort Harrison, Mont.

**Time in Service:** 4 years, 8 months

Staff Sgt. Aaron Butler currently serves as a 68J30, Medical Logistics Sergeant, with the 4225<sup>th</sup> U.S. Army Hospital, at Fort Harrison, Helena, Mont.

He previously completed assignments in Qatar, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Djibouti. His service in support of the 20<sup>th</sup> Special Forces Group in the Horn of Africa resulted in an impact Army Achievement Medal for medical logistics actions. Butler is Airborne, Air Assault, Combat Lifesaver, and Combatives Level I qualified.

His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal (3); Army Achievement Medals (4); Good Conduct Medal; Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal; and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

He is pursuing a degree in environmental biology at Montana State University, and is a native of Three Forks, Mont.





## BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2009

### Competitor Biography



**Sgt. David Dasilma**  
**U.S. Army Medical Command**  
*NCO of the Year*

**Current Unit of Assignment:** Evans Army Community Hospital, 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team, 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colo.

**Time in Service:** 3 years, 6 months

Sgt. David Dasilma is currently serving as a 68W, Health Care Noncommissioned Officer with Evans Army Community Hospital at Fort Carson, Colorado. He has held assignments in Immunizations, Battalion Operations, Brigade Quality Management Division and the Emergency Department. Dasilma has also completed the Warrior Leader Course, Unit Field Sanitation, Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear Defense, Basic Airborne Course and is an Advanced Cardiac Life Support instructor.



Dasilma's military awards and achievements include the Army Commendation Medal (4); Army Achievement Medal (4); Good Conduct Service Medal; and U.S. Army Medical Command NCO of the Year.

In 2003, he graduated from the Vancouver Academy of Dramatic Arts. He completed an associate's degree at Valencia Community College in 2005.

Dasilma is from Surrey, British Columbia, Canada.



## BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2009

### Competitor Biography



#### **Spc. Michael J. Engelsgjerd**

**U.S. Army Special Operations Command**  
***Soldier of the Year***

**Current Unit of Assignment:**

C Co., 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment,  
Fort Benning, Ga.

**Time in Service:** 3 years

Spc. Michael J. Engelsgjerd serves as an 11B1V, Gun Team Leader, with C Co., 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 75<sup>th</sup> Ranger Regiment. He has completed two deployments to Iraq, and is Airborne and Ranger qualified.



His awards and decorations include the Army Achievement Medal (3); Army Commendation Medal (2); Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Iraq Combat Medal; Army Service Ribbon; Expert Infantryman's Badge; Combat Infantryman Badge; Ranger Tab; and Parachutist Badge.

Engelsgjerd is a native of Midland, Mich.





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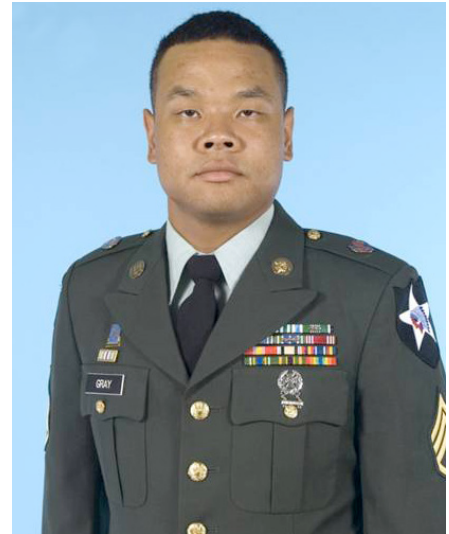
**Staff Sgt. Randy Gray, Jr.**  
**U.S. Army Forces Korea**  
***NCO of the Year***

**Current Unit of Assignment:**

A Co., 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion,  
1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry  
Division, South Korea

**Time in Service: 5 years**

Staff Sgt. Randy Gray, Jr., currently serves as a platoon sergeant and a 35N, Signals Intelligence Analyst, with A Co., 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division in South Korea.



Previously, he served in an assignment at the National Security Agency located at Fort Meade, Md., and a deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as a Cryptologic Support Team member supporting the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division.

His awards and decorations include the Joint Service Commendation Medal; Army Commendation Medal (4); Joint Service Achievement Medal; and Army Achievement Medal (5).

A native of Fayetteville, N.C., Gray has a Bachelor of Arts in public policy from Duke University, and is married.



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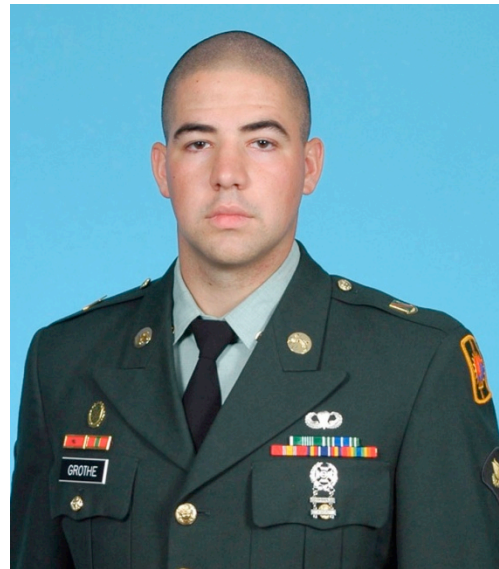


**Spc. Matthew L. Grothe**  
**U.S. Army Pacific Command**  
*Soldier of the Year*

**Current Unit of Assignment:**  
728<sup>th</sup> Military Police Battalion,  
Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

**Time in Service:** 2 years

Spc. Matthew L. Grothe serves as a 31B, Military Policeman with the 728th Military Police Battalion. He has been in the Army two years and the 728th MP BN is his first duty station as a Military Policeman. Grothe is Airborne qualified.



Grothe's military awards and achievements include the Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; and three Certificates of Achievement.

He is pursuing a bachelor's degree in business administration.

A native of Casper, Wyo., Grothe is married.



## BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2009

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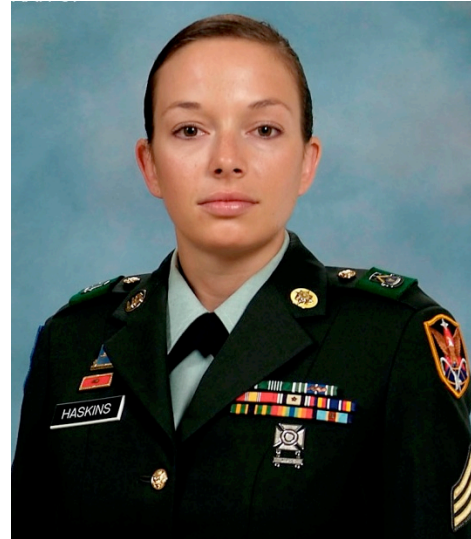


**Sgt. Sarah C. Haskins**  
**U.S. Army Space and Missile**  
**Defense Command**  
***NCO of the Year***

**Current Unit of Assignment:**  
1<sup>st</sup> Space Brigade, Peterson Air Force Base,  
Colorado Springs, Colo.

**Time in Service:** 5 years

Sgt. Sarah C. Haskins currently serves as a 35S, Signals Analyst, with the 1<sup>st</sup> Space Brigade in Colorado Springs, Colo. She has also deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. She joined the military in March 2004 as a 98K10, Signals Collection/Identification Analyst, and completed basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C.



Haskins' first duty station was B Co., 205th Military Intelligence Battalion in Fort Shafter, Hawaii, where she served as Training Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, Safety NCOIC, Army Substance Abuse Program NCOIC, and Unit Prevention Leader.

Presently, she is enrolled at Colorado State University where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in criminology.

Haskins was born in Erie, Pa. She graduated from Howards Grove High School in Howards Grove, Wis.



## BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2009

### Competitor Biography



**Spc. Clancey Henderson**  
**U.S. Army Forces Command**  
*Soldier of the Year*

**Current Unit of Assignment:**

193rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

**Time in Service:** 2 years

Spc. Clancey Henderson serves as a 35F10, All Source Intelligence Analyst with 193rd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. He has been in the Army for two years. Henderson is Combat Lifesaver, Combatives Level 1 and II certified.



His military awards and achievements include the Army Commendation Medal (2); Army Achievement Medal (4); National Defense Service Medal; Korean Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Army Service Ribbon; and Overseas Service Ribbon.

Henderson attends the American Military University and is pursuing an associate's degree in intelligence analysis and research. He is a native of Longmont, Colo.



## BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2009

### Competitor Biography



**Spc. James D. Holmes**  
**U.S. Army Forces Korea**  
***Soldier of the Year***

**Current Unit of Assignment:**

C Battery, 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery,  
Waegwan, South Korea

**Time in Service:** 2 years

Spc. James D. Holmes serves as a 14T10, Launcher Crew Member with C Battery, 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery at Camp Carroll, South Korea. He is Combat Lifesaver and Combatives Level 1 certified.

Holmes' military awards and achievements include the Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; National Defense Service Ribbon; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Korean Defense Service Medal; and Army Service Ribbon.

He graduated from the State University of New York – Cortland with a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering in 2007. Holmes is a native of Oneida, N.Y.







## BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2009

### Competitor Biography



**Sgt. Cole W. Joines**  
**National Capital Region**  
***NCO of the Year***

**Current Unit of Assignment:** Headquarters & Operations Company, 732<sup>nd</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion, 500<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence Brigade, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii

**Time in Service:** 3 years, 4 months

Sgt. Cole W. Joines is currently stationed as the Training Noncommissioned Officer in Charge with the Headquarters & Operations Company, 732<sup>nd</sup> Military Intelligence Battalion, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He began his military career in April 2006 at Fort Jackson, S.C., where he completed basic training. Joines completed Advanced Individual Training at the Defense Language Institute, Monterey, Calif., where he studied Mandarin Chinese. In April 2008, he was assigned to his current station.



During his military training and education, Joines earned Soldier Leader of the Cycle and Highest PT Award during basic training; honor graduate at DLI, where he completed an associate's degree in Chinese; and was selected for the Commandant's List upon graduating from the NCO Academy-Hawaii.

His awards include an Army Commendation Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster; Army Achievement Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters; and NCO of the Year, 732<sup>nd</sup> MI Bn.

Joines is a native of Wharton, Texas, where he attended Wharton High School. Upon graduation from high school, he attended Texas A&M University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics.



## BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2009

### Competitor Biography



**Sgt. Jonathan Jordan**  
**U.S. Army Medical Command**  
***Soldier of the Year***

**Current Unit of Assignment:** U.S. Army Medical Activity, Fort Huachuca, Sierra Vista, Ariz.

**Time in Service:** 2 years

Sgt. Jonathan Jordan currently serves as a 68J, Medical Supply Specialist at the U.S. Army Medical Activity in Sierra Vista, Ariz. He is a Combatives Level III Distinguished Honor graduate and instructor.



Jordan's military awards and achievements include the Army Commendation Medal (3); Army Achievement Medal (3); Expert Field Medical Badge; German Armed Forces Proficiency Gold Badge; Army Medical Command Best Warrior; Warrior Leader Course honor graduate; and Battalion Warrior Challenge Champion.

He also won the Fort Huachuca Combatives Tournament (Lightweight Division), and placed first in the Commander's Cup Triathlon team competition.

He completed a bachelor's degree in health services administration at Auburn University in Auburn, Ala.

Jordan is a native of Marietta, Ga., and is married with one child.



## BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2009

### Competitor Biography



**Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Corey King**  
**U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command**  
***NCO of the Year***

**Current Unit of Assignment:** Texas Tech University, Army Reserve Officer Training Corps, Lubbock, Texas

**Time in Service:** 17 years



Sgt. 1st Class Corey King currently serves as a military science instructor at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas. He entered the United States Army in July 1992, and since completion of Basic Training and Advanced Individual Training at Fort Benning, Ga., he completed assignments with Company E, 51st Infantry Regiment (Long Range Surveillance), Darmstadt, Germany; 3rd Battalion 187<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, Fort Campbell, Ky.; 2nd Battalion 39th Infantry Regiment, Fort Jackson, S.C.; and 2nd Battalion, 16th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Fort Riley, Kan.

King's last three duty positions have been Assistant Brigade Operations NCO, Infantry Platoon Sergeant and Infantry Squad Leader. He has completed the Primary Leadership Development Course; Basic Noncommissioned Officer Course; Advanced Noncommissioned Officer Course; Medical Specialist Course; Airborne School; Air Assault School; Army Combatives Levels I and II; International Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol School Winter Patrolling; and ILRRPS Combat Arms Recognition Courses.

His awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Achievement Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters; Good Conduct Medal (4); National Defense Service Medal with star; Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal; Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one star; Iraq Campaign Medal with three stars; Overseas Service Ribbon-third Award; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Armed Forces Service Medal; the NCO

Professional Development Ribbon-third Award; Army Service Ribbon; NATO Medal; Presidential Unit Citation; Valorous Unit Award; Expert Infantryman's Badge; and Combat Infantryman's Badge.

His civilian education includes an associate's degree from Central Texas College.

A native of El Dorado, Kan., King is married and has five children.



## BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2009

### Competitor Biography



**Spc. Darwynn I. McPherson**  
**U.S. Army Materiel Command**  
***Soldier of the Year***

**Current Unit of Assignment:** 688<sup>th</sup> Rapid Port  
Opening Element, Fort Eustis, Va.

**Time in Service:** 3 years, 6 months

Spc. Darwynn I. McPherson serves as an 88N, Transportation Movement Coordinator, with the 688th Rapid Port Opening Element, 597th Transportation Terminal Group. He has been in the Army three years, and served one year in Camp Stanley, South Korea.



His military awards include the Army Commendation Medal (2); and Army Achievement Medal (3).

McPherson is married, and is a native of St. Stephens, Ala.





## BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2009

### Competitor Biography



**Spc. Guy M. Mellor**  
**U.S. Army National Guard**  
***Soldier of the Year***

**Current Unit of Assignment:**  
B Battery, 1-145th Field Artillery, Manti, Utah

**Time in Service:** 4 years

Spc. Guy M. Mellor serves as a 13B10, Cannon crewmember with B Battery, 1-145th Field Artillery. He has been in the Army for four years. He is Combat Lifesaver and Combatives Level I certified. He also has completed the Warrior Leader Course.



Mellor's military awards and achievements include the Army Commendation Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Ribbon; and Army Service Ribbon.

He is pursuing a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, and plans on pursuing a master's degree.

Mellor is a native of Fayette, Utah.



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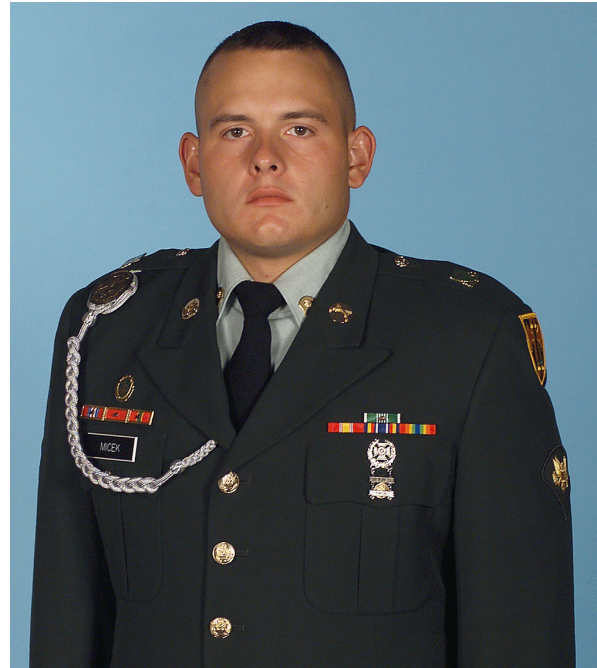
**Spc. Daniel J. Micek**  
**U.S. Army Europe Command**  
***Soldier of the Year***

**Current Unit of Assignment:**  
615<sup>th</sup> Military Police Co., 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon,  
Grafenwoehr, Germany

**Time in Service:** 2 years

Spc. Daniel J. Micek currently serves as the Team Leader with the 615<sup>th</sup> Military Police Co., 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon in Grafenwoehr, Germany. He is Combatives Level 2 and Combat Lifesaver certified.

His military awards and achievements include two Army Commendation Medals.



Beckman graduated from Twin River High School in Genoa, Neb., and completed an associate's degree from Central Community College - Nebraska in 2007. He is currently pursuing a degree in agricultural occupations.

He is a native of Silver Creek, Neb.



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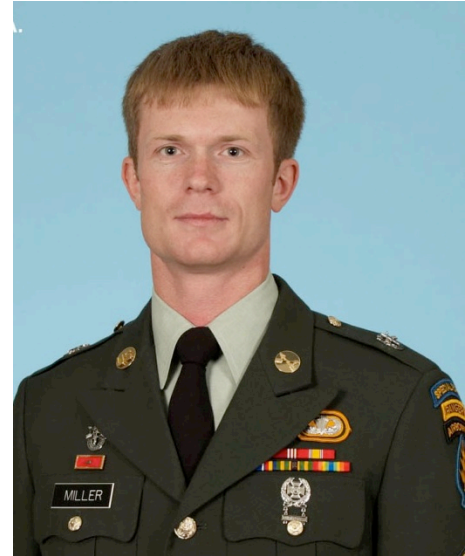


**Sgt. Lucas A. Miller**  
**U.S. Army Special Operations Command**  
***NCO of the Year***

**Current Unit of Assignment:** 18D2V, Special Forces Junior Medic, C Co., 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne)

**Time in Service:** 4 years, 6 months

Sgt. Lucas A. Miller currently serves as an 18D2V, Special Forces Junior Medic with C Co., 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne). He will be deploying to Afghanistan in January and has completed a Joint Combined Exchange Training with Singapore Commandos.



He is Special Forces, Ranger, Airborne & EMT qualified. He is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in pre-medicine.

Miller's awards and achievements include the Army Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon; Army Service Ribbon; Special Forces Tab; Ranger Tab; and Parachutist Badge.

Miller is a native of Salem, Ore.



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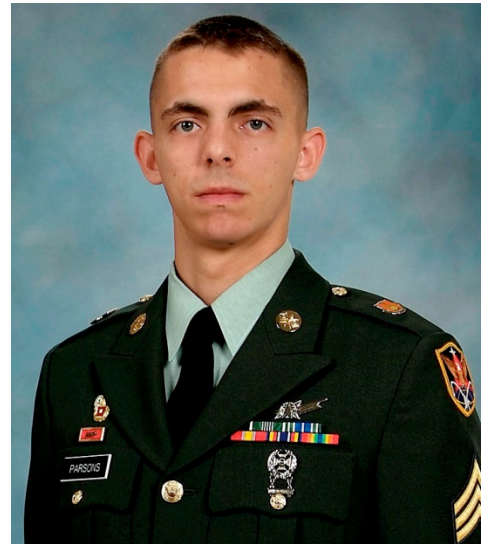


**Sgt. Travis D. Parsons**  
**U.S. Army Space and Missile**  
**Defense Command**  
***Soldier of the Year***

**Current Unit of Assignment:** E Co., 53<sup>rd</sup> Signal  
Battalion, Okinawa, Japan

**Time in Service:** 3 years

Sgt. Travis D. Parsons is a 25S1C, Satellite Network Controller, currently serving as the Company Training Noncommissioned Officer with E Co., 53rd Signal Battalion in Okinawa. He has served in the Army for three years.



His military awards and achievements include the Army Achievement Medal; Army Commendation Medal; Distinguished Honor Graduate in the Tactical Satellite Systems Course; and Honor Graduate of the Satellite Network Controller's Course.

A native of Columbia, S. C., Parsons is married and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in physics.



## BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2009

### Competitor Biography



**Sgt. Matthew R. Phelan**  
**U.S Army Materiel Command**  
***NCO of the Year***

**Current Unit of Assignment:** Information and Intelligence Warfare Directorate, Communications and Electronics Research and Development Center, Fort Monmouth, N.J.

**Time in Service:** 6 years

Sgt. Matthew R. Phelan serves as a 35T, Military Intelligence System Repairer, with the Information and Intelligence Warfare Directorate, Communications and Electronics Research and Development Center, in Fort Monmouth, N.J. He has been in the Army six years and has deployed in support to Operation Iraqi Freedom twice.



Phelan is Combatives Level 1 and Combat Lifesaver certified.

His military awards and decorations include the Army Commendation Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters; Army Achievement Medal; Meritorious Unit Citation (2); Good Conduct Medal (2<sup>nd</sup> Award); National Defense Service Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon (2); and Combat Action Badge.

He completed a bachelor's degree in sociology with a concentration in criminal justice from East Stroudsburg University.

A resident of Piscataway, N. J., he is married with one daughter.





## BEST WARRIOR COMPETITION 2009

### Competitor Biography



**Sgt. Aron Reyes**  
**U.S. Army Forces Command**  
*NCO of the Year*

**Current Unit of Assignment:** 38<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Company (Explosive Ordnance Disposal), Fort Stewart, Ga.

**Time in Service:** 3 years

Sgt. Aron Reyes currently is assigned as an 89D30, Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team Leader, with the 38th Ordnance Company (EOD) for an upcoming deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom. He is a 13F10, Artillery Forward Observer.



His military awards and achievements include the Army Commendation Medal (2); Army Achievement Medal; Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Iraq Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars; Global War on Terrorism Service Medal; Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon; Army Service Ribbon; Overseas Service Ribbon; and Exploded Ordnance Badge.

Reyes' military education includes Warrior Leader Course, where he graduated on the Commandant's List; the Combat Lifesaver Course; Tactical Post Blast Investigator Course; and The Naval School Explosive Ordnance Disposal Course, where he earned the Basic Ordnance Disposal Badge.

Reyes is a native of Parlier, Calif.